



## San Juan County Sheriff's Office

1557 Greene St.  
PO Box 178  
Silverton, CO 81433  
970-387-5531 – Office

03/21/2020 Statement from the San Juan County Colorado Sheriff Bruce Conrad

Our community is geographically unique, allowing us an opportunity to experience less of the tragedy associated with Covid-19. Minimizing our exposure to the greater world, as well as practicing sensible limitations on our own interactions is the key to this outcome. At the same time, we have the potential to be very hard hit should this virus be transmitted throughout San Juan County and Silverton in the manner common illnesses tend to.

With these thoughts in mind, The San Juan County Sheriff is implementing a "Locals Only" policy, prohibiting all but essential services, HWY 550 drive through traffic, and San Juan County residents only. This will apply to all San Juan County lands, as backcountry skiers and snowmobilers unnecessarily increase the potential for emergency and medical team response. Vehicles parked on the passes and all San Juan County roads not registered in San Juan County Colorado are subject to fines and towing.

These are not extreme measures in these extraordinary times, and we are not the first community to enact them. It is not a cavalier decision made without regard for our economy or for the well-being of our citizens. It is in fact, our well-being at stake here.

San Juan County residents are being asked to self-quarantine, traveling around town and beyond should be limited to obtaining necessities, and solo or small party exercise outings. We have many resources in place for assisting locals in need and we will continue to be successful if we can minimize the impacts of the COVID 19 crisis.

This situation will be constantly assessed and evaluated with the goal of returning to normal operations and normal life as soon as safely possible. In the meantime, we are tough mountain folk. With good practices and care for each other, we will get through this better than most.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce T. Conrad", written over a horizontal line.

San Juan County Sheriff Bruce Conrad